

the one opportunity that I had to visit Iraq just before Christmas of 2003, and at that time Fallujah was a little more peaceful than it is today. And I remember General Swanick took us on a patrol. We were in a situation where things were relatively stable. We obviously could not do that today, but we went in those Humvees with those soldiers of the 101st, and we visited a school, which by our standards, Mr. Speaker, one probably would not want their child in a building that has no air conditioning and no heat. It is lighted, but there is not a nice playground or anything like that. But, by golly, there is a chalkboard, and those kids were there and not only little male children but of course for the first time probably in 30 years little precious female children were able to get an education. They were sitting there. They were bright eyed, and they were hopeful. And that is what we were doing in Fallujah before Sadr and all of these terrorist thugs started killing everybody just wantonly and the mass destruction that is going on there right now.

But, I mean, this is the kind of thing that we were doing. More than 8.7 million textbooks have been printed and distributed throughout Iraq; 32,000 secondary school teachers and administrative staff have been trained to teach Iraqi children; 240 hospitals; 1,200 health clinics. Health care spending in Iraq has increased 30 times over its prewar. Five million children have been immunized for measles, mumps, and rubella. That is because of the liberation and the compassion that this country has brought to Iraq.

And I know the gentleman from Michigan has seen so much of that and agrees with me that the good stories are not being told. All of us are appalled with the activity of a miscreant few in that Abu Ghraib prison there in Baghdad and what they did is unforgivable. There is no excuse for that, and they will pay the price.

But it is a shame that we have got 165,000 brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and 25,000 coalition forces that are laying it on the line and indeed sometimes paying the ultimate sacrifice to do the right thing, and that is the message that of course does not get the soundbites on this 24-hour news that we have to literally put up with every day in this country. But we are here tonight, and I am just so pleased to have an opportunity. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for allowing me to join with him and talk about the good things that we are doing, and at the end of the day we will succeed in this mission.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comments.

I want to again talk a little bit about the war that we are in. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Steve Cambone, gave a speech back in January that I think kind of describes the challenges that we face as a Nation. And as we talk about the progress

that we make in Iraq, as we talk about the progress that we make in Afghanistan, we cannot lose context of the total situation that we face as a Nation. And here is how the Under Secretary described it: "We are a Nation at war. We do not know how long it will last, but it is unlikely to be short. We cannot know where or against whom all of its battles will be fought. There are multiple fronts in this war, and there is no single theatre of operations. We do know that we are all at risk, at home and abroad, civilians and military alike. We do know that battles and campaigns will both be conventional and unconventional in their conduct. Some of those battles and campaigns will be fought in the open, and others will be fought in secret where our victories will be known to only a few."

Going on in his speech he says: "We are facing a turbulent and volatile world populated by a number of highly adaptive state and nonstate actors. Some of these are weighing whether, to what extent, or how they might oppose the interests of the United States and its friends. Others such as the terrorist organizations responsible for attacks on the United States, Turkey, Indonesia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kenya, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and other places have committed themselves to war."

I think this gives us some idea as to the full context of the threat that we face and the number of different places that we face that threat.

He also goes on to say: "It is impossible to predict with confidence what nation or entity will pose a threat in 5, 10, or 20 years to the United States or to our friends and allies."

His speech goes on: "But not everything that unfolds in the coming years should be a surprise." Here is what we can expect: "We can expect that an adversary will continuously search for effective means to attack our people, our economy, military and political power, and the people in power of our friends and allies. We can also expect that an adversary will have access to a range of modern technologies and will be prepared to use them to magnify the destructiveness of their attacks, using truck bombs and improvised explosives, cyberintrusions to attack the computer systems upon which we rely, radio transmitters to jam our space assets, small laboratories to develop new and biological or genetically altered agents, and chemical and nuclear technology materials delivered by missile, plane, boat, or backpack to poison our environment and destroy human lives."

Here is what candidate Bush said in 1999, perhaps better understanding that threat than the administration at that point: "Now our President reminded his audience of an earlier time when a free people confronted what he called 'rapid change and momentous choices.' That time was the 1930s. Nazi Germany was rearming, and the British Govern-

ment was reluctant to take forceful steps to stave off war. To give voice to his own concerns, candidate Bush quoted Winston Churchill, who repeatedly called upon his countrymen to respond to the gathering storm."

Here is what candidate Bush said and quoted from Winston Churchill: "'The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to a close,' Churchill said. 'In its place we are entering a period of consequences.' That period of consequences arrived not only for the military but for those who practiced intelligence just 2 years after the President's Citadel speech on September 11, 2001. Like our colleagues in the military forces, we will be judged by our successors on our response to this period of consequences. We face few substantial impediments to transforming intelligence. We are led by individuals at the Department of Defense and agencies who embrace the need for and who likewise are committed to this effort. Congress has provided the resources."

What we see is a true response. "There is an urgency to transform intelligence, defining and achieving operational goals." But what we will not see and what we have not seen from this President, what we perhaps saw during the 1990s and what the folks in Great Britain saw in the 1930s, what they saw and what we perhaps saw, the British Government, the U.S. Government in the 1990s was reluctant to take forceful steps to stave off war. Again: "The era of procrastination, of half measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to a close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences."

That was the end of the quote from Winston Churchill. It was the end of an era where we had delays and baffling expediency.

What this President has provided us is an era of leadership, strategically. There can be differences on the tactics. We have done things wrong. Mistakes have been made. It is always great in hindsight to identify a mistake, 20/20 vision, saying we should have done that 2 years ago or we should have done that 3 months ago, and we are second guessing our military commanders in the field, but what we do have is we have a clear sense of vision and commitment to move forward and to get this done. That is what this President has provided. Strategically we are headed in the right direction. Tactically we have got some work to do.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

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Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank him, too, I really appreciate the historical perspective that he brings to this debate, because we learn from our history. God help us if we do not learn from our history. We repeat the same mistakes.